

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 116 of the Rules of Procedure

by Roberta Angelilli, Cristiana Muscardini, Romano La Russa, Alessandro Foglietta and Sergio Berlato

on the need for social and environmental clauses to be introduced in the context of the WTO negotiations in Hong Kong

Lapse date: 1.3.2006

0070/2005

Written declaration on the need to introduce social and environmental clauses during the WTO negotiations in Hong Kong

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas the sixth WTO conference will be held in Hong Kong from 13 to 18 December with a view to reaching a global agreement on trade liberalisation,
 - B. having regard to the vast and unrestrained influx onto the European market of all types of goods, coming from China in particular (from yarn to shoes, from toys to foodstuffs),
 - C. whereas, following the expiry of the Multifibre Arrangement, the European market has been subject to an invasion of products from China, which could result in the loss of around one million jobs in the European Union,
 - D. whereas the problem of the counterfeiting of goods and trademarks is becoming worse,
 - E. whereas a large part of China's output is produced without regard for minimum standards of social and environmental protection, thereby creating unfair competition and distortion of the rules of international trade,
 - F. whereas the Community institutions need to commit themselves to promoting the social dimension of globalisation,
1. Calls on the Commission to:
 - (a) propose that, as part of the WTO negotiations, clauses be introduced to prevent social and environmental dumping and to protect workers and the environment, with the free movement of goods made conditional on the safeguarding of rights;
 - (b) propose that the European Union should retain the possibility of suspending its own compliance with obligations under WTO rules, if other WTO members fail to abide by agreements that have been concluded;
 2. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.